

February 2021

Volume 24, Issue 02

Upcoming Meetings

ZOOM scheduled for Jan-June. In-person remains unknown due to COVID-19 restrictions. Zoom dates: Feb. 3, Mar. 3, Apr. 7, May 5, and June 2nd.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., meeting starts 7 p.m., at the Rockwood Public Library (inside Eramosa Community Centre) at 85 Christie Street (near corner Christie Street and Main Street North Wellington Road 27, Rockwood, On. NOB 2K0.

2021 Annual Membership Fee:

Regular \$10
Couple \$12
Junior (14 to age 18) \$5
Under 14 Free

Membership / Treasurer Contact:

c/o: Scott Douglas, 273 Mill St. E., Acton, On. L7J 1J7,
Ph: (519) 853-3812,

E-mail:
sdouglas333@gmail.com

Guelph Saturday Coin Show Dates:

Note: 2021 show dates are tentative re COVID-19 restrictions.

2021-September 25th

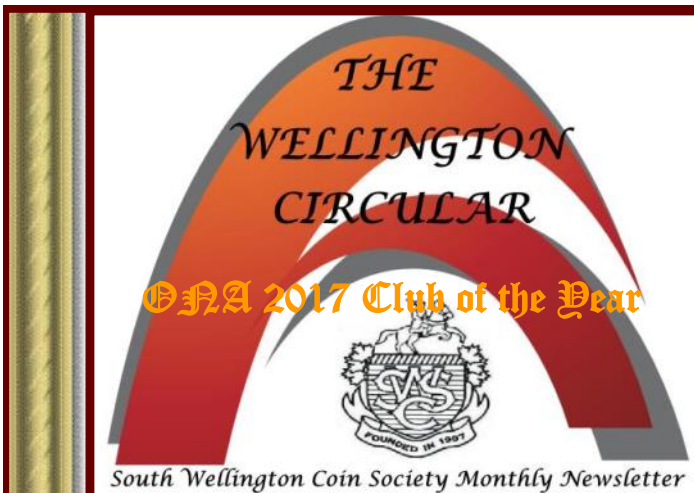
2022-April 23rd

2022-September 24th

Are you attending?

☒ YES, I WILL BE THERE

☐ NO



NEXT MEETING DATE:

ZOOM Wed. Feb. 3, 2021

GUEST SPEAKER:

**James Williston,
Topic: Encased Coins**

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

For our **Feb. 3rd** meeting, we have **James Williston** (RCNA Alberta Director, Calgary Numismatic Society Member, Owner of Canada Wide Woods). He will give a presentation on *Encased Coins*. Upcoming meetings include: **Brett Irick** (March 3rd, Topic: *Canadian Queen Victoria Ten Cents Coins*), and **Michael Souza** (April 7th, Topic: *The Banknotes of Hawaii*). We are inviting presenters for our May and June 2021 Zoom meetings. Please contact **Scott Douglas** by email sdouglas333@gmail.com or phone 519-853-3812, if you would like to give a presentation.

Sean Sinclair's presentation, *The Shape of Change*, was well received during our January Zoom meeting. He has written an article herein to expand on this, as well as, provided a link for a YouTube video. In this issue, we also have the second preview from **Scott Douglas's** upcoming book.

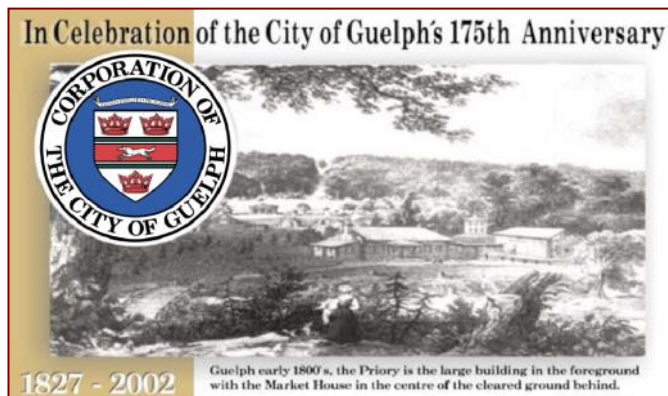
Our January 2021 Zoom meeting saw 9 members and 6 guests out, and one of those guests, **David Carpenter**, has since joined SWCS. Welcome David!

The 3-year-term of the current SWCS Executive is up on June 30, 2021. If you are willing to stand for an Officer, Director, or non-elected role, please let **Scott Douglas** know by **March 30, 2021**.

Show Update: Our April 24th, 2021, show is cancelled due to unavailability of the facility and the COVID-19 restriction climate, and the time needed to administer the vaccines. HOWEVER, we do anticipate our fall show, September 25th, 2021, will be going ahead.

April 18th, 2022, will mark 25 years since SWCS's inaugural meeting. It would be nice to feature images from meetings and shows, and documents in our newsletter. You are invited to submit items each month leading up to our actual Anniversary celebration in 2022.

Did you know 2022 is also the 195th Anniversary of the City of Guelph?



South Wellington
Coin Society **founded
in 1997**



Newsletter Editor

Judy Blackman, FONA, KSIE

E-mail:
jblackman@rogers.com

Send pictures in jpg,
files in doc, xls, pdf,
wpd, or email body.



Articles for the upcoming
newsletters are due to the Editor
by no later than one week
following the last Club meeting
(usually before the 10th).

Advertising space will be
accommodated where space is
available.

SWCS:
Was founded in March 1997.



This medal was issued 2015.

**SWCS is recipient of
BOTH RCNA Club of
Year and Newsletter of
Year Awards.**



South Wellington Coin Club founded 1997

SWCS EXECUTIVE

Term of Office: **July 1, 2018—June 30, 2021 (3 yrs.)**

Board of Directors (elected)

(sets officers' guidelines, but not involved in day-to-day operations EXCEPT responsible for ALL education programs and looks after ALL contracts for venues and insurance)

Chairman / Director: **Scott Douglas**

Directors: **Peter Becker, Ernie Blair, Garry George, John Semedo, Lowell Wierstra**
(ljwierstra@rogers.com, **519-824-6534**)

Director of Youth Services: **Peter Horne deus (YN)**

Officers (elected)

(run the day-to-day operations)

President: **Scott Douglas**, sdouglas333@gmail.com, **519-853-3812**
(also is club archivist, historian, and looks after medals)

Past-President: **John Semedo**, johnsemedo99@gmail.com, **519-821-6379**

Vice-President: **Mike Hollingshead**, cholling@uoguelph.ca, **519-823-2646**

Treasurer: **Scott Douglas**

(includes all revenues generated from membership dues, meetings, and shows; and looks after advertising)

Secretary: **Judy Blackman**, jblackman@rogers.com

(includes flyers, other club notices, newsletters since Oct 5 2011, public website liaison, private website webmaster)

Newsletter / Flyer Distribution: **Linda Blair**

Other Non-Elected IMPORTANT Club Roles

ALL Multi-Media Needs & Photographer: **John Semedo**

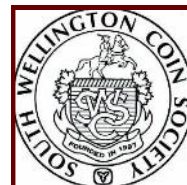
ALL Draws and Membership Meeting Notes: **John Semedo** and **Mike Hollingshead**

Show Bourse: **Mike Hollingshead** and **Lowell Wierstra**
Social Media Show Advertising: **Andrew Fedora**

Auction Chairman: **Lowell Wierstra**

Auctioneers: **Mike Hollingshead** and **Scott Douglas**
Auction Runners: available executive and other members.

Meeting Room Set-up and Clean-up:
All members present



The Numismatics of Wellington County

by Scott E. Douglas, SWCS President, FRCNA, FONA, FCNRS, GKStE

In April 2022 the South Wellington Coin Society will celebrate 25 years as a numismatic organization. It is my intention to publish the book *"The Numismatics of Wellington County"* in celebration of this event. Periodically, I will send our Editor a snapshot of part of the content of this book to be published in the SWCS newsletter. This snapshot will preview an article that will be featured in the book in an expanded format. The second preview is below, *"W. Bell & Co., Guelph, Ontario"*.

Scott E Douglas

W. Bell & Co., Guelph, Ontario

William Bell was born in Dumfries, Scotland on September 5, 1833. As a young boy William had apprenticed as a carpenter and brought this skill to Canada, moving to Toronto in 1853. Soon after his arrival he went to work in Minnesota before coming back to Guelph, Ontario to marry Isabella Christie in 1860. In 1861 William and Isabella relocated to Minnesota where William had made progress plying his carpentry trade. Here William was to gain some important business knowledge that would propel his future commercial activities.



In 1864 William and Isabella along with their son William Jr. and daughter Edith returned to Guelph. William, along with his brother Robert, began making parlour organs under the name Bell Brothers Melodeon and Organ Manufactory. The parlour organ was very popular at this time and cheaper to make than a piano. William stressed the need for quality and the product they produced was superb in every way. William's ambition soon outgrew his brother's and Robert was bought out of the partnership. In 1867 William took over McLeod & Wood Organ Company and by 1870 the company became known as W. Bell & Co.

In 1878 William's son William J. Bell began to learn his father's business and in 1880 he was sent to England to establish a branch of the company. Within 10 years William Jr. had built European sales to a point that he was running two-thirds of the Guelph company production through the London office.

By 1888 the company is reputed to have had 600 employees and was the largest employer in Canada. W. Bell & Co. offered 50 different styles of organ to many parts of the world.



W. Bell & Co tirelessly promoted their organs and pianos attending every provincial exhibition in Ontario as well as the annual Toronto Industrial Exhibition and the Colonial and Indian Exhibition (1886) in London England. They were rewarded with prizes, diplomas and medals that were deservedly awarded to them year after year.

William Bell not only served the City of Guelph as an employer but he was heavily involved in other businesses. Between 1883 and 1897 Bell served as president of the Globe Building and Loan Company, the Guelph Junction Railway Company, Traders Bank of Canada and was the vice-president of Manufacturers Life Insurance Company. Daily he would travel into Toronto by train to attend a meeting with one or more of these companies. In 1897 while returning to Guelph

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by train he got up to move to a different train car after leaving Rockwood station. While passing between the cars he was thrown from the train and lay at the bottom of a snowy embankment until a freight train passed by a while later and he was seen by a crew member. Miraculously he was alright other than a few cuts on his face from the cinders beside the track. This incident, however, convinced him it was time to retire and so he did with the exception of retaining his position with Traders Bank for another fifteen years.



Strangely, on September 26, 1912 William Bell was struck by a Grand Trunk Railway train and died instantly. William Bell was 80 years old.

In 1920 business began to decline. Organs and pianos were now starting to take a backseat to gramophones and Model T cars as a form of entertainment. By 1924 the Bell Piano and Organ Co., passed into the hands of a syndicate headed by John S. Dowling of Brantford, Ontario. The syndicate could not revive the business and declared bankruptcy in 1934. The assets were picked up by Lesage Piano Ltd of Quebec who continued to use the Bell name for fifteen years.



↑ Illustration of an award medal presented at the Kingston, Ont. provincial exhibition in 1871 to W. Bell & Co. Guelph, For Proficiency in Musical Instruments.



↑ Award medal of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition 1886. W. Bell & Co. exhibited Organs in choice woods.

2021 Coated €20 Banknotes

[Source Dec. 19, 2020 PR: Deutsche Bundesbank Eurosystem]



Over the course of 2021, the Bundesbank will begin issuing coated €20 banknotes, according to remarks made by the Bundesbank Executive Board member responsible for cash, Johannes Beermann, to the German news agency "Deutsche Presse-Agentur" (dpa). The coating is intended to extend the life of the banknotes. "Longer banknote lifespans mean savings in terms of production costs and resources," said Beermann, noting that coated banknotes felt somewhat smoother than uncoated ones, but that the differences were virtually undetectable to the naked eye. The uncoated €20 banknotes can continue to be used as before to make payments; they do not have to be exchanged for new ones. The €5 and €10 banknotes of the second series of euro banknotes (known as the Europa series), which have been gradually brought into circulation since 2013, are already coated with a special varnish.

THE LOONIE: MORE THAN SIMPLY ELEVEN SIDES

BY SEAN SINCLAIR, SWCS MEMBER, ONA DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (2,4,5), ONA BOURSE CHAIRMAN

Has anyone ever really looked at the shape of the Loonie? It is more than simply an eleven-sided polygon. The edges of the Loonie are not actually straight lines, but rather arcs. The reasoning is that the arcs allow a coin with multiple sides to roll freely and therefore not jam inside machinery, such as vending machines.

But why does applying a curve to the edge of a polygon allow it to roll more freely? Even with curved edges, it would still be a bumpy ride, wouldn't it?



Backtracking briefly, let's take a look at a dodecagonal (12-sides) coin. The Australian 50-cent coin has been 12-sided since 1969, when the coin was changed from silver to cupro-nickel. The distance across the flats is 31.65 mm, however, the distance across the corners is 32.76 mm, which is over 1 mm larger. This means that any mechanism that is designed to accept the 50-cent coin must be designed to fit the largest size, otherwise, there is the possibility of the coin getting jammed. The other problem is that a polygon with straight sides does not roll very well.

The curved polygon eliminates both of these problems. A curved polygon is created by using a regular polygon (equal edge lengths and angles) with an odd number of sides. From this, an arc is created by setting the centre of the arc on one vertex and running the arc between the two vertices directly opposite. You must do this from each vertex of the polygon. The radius of the arc then becomes the size of the finished shape.



A curved polygon created in this manner is known as a Reuleaux polygon. It is named for the 19th century German engineer, Franz Reuleaux, who studied the concept as a means of providing mechanical energy. The simplest Reuleaux polygon would be a Reuleaux triangle. By making the edges of the triangle, pentagon, etc. curved, you give the shape a constant width. A Reuleaux triangle with a width of 30 mm, does not need the slot to be larger, as the width of the triangle is never larger or smaller than 30 mm. The image to the left is an 5-Euro coin from Austria.



The first coin of this type was the British 50-pence, which was first produced in 1969, in preparation for the conversion to decimal currency in 1971. The 50-pence coin is a unilateral curved heptagon (7-sides). The majority of circulating Reuleaux polygon coins that can be found around the world are heptagons. Both the Canadian 'Loonie' Dollar and Czech 2-Koruny are Reuleaux hendecagons (11-sides), while the Czech 20-Korun is a Reuleaux tridecagon (13-sides).



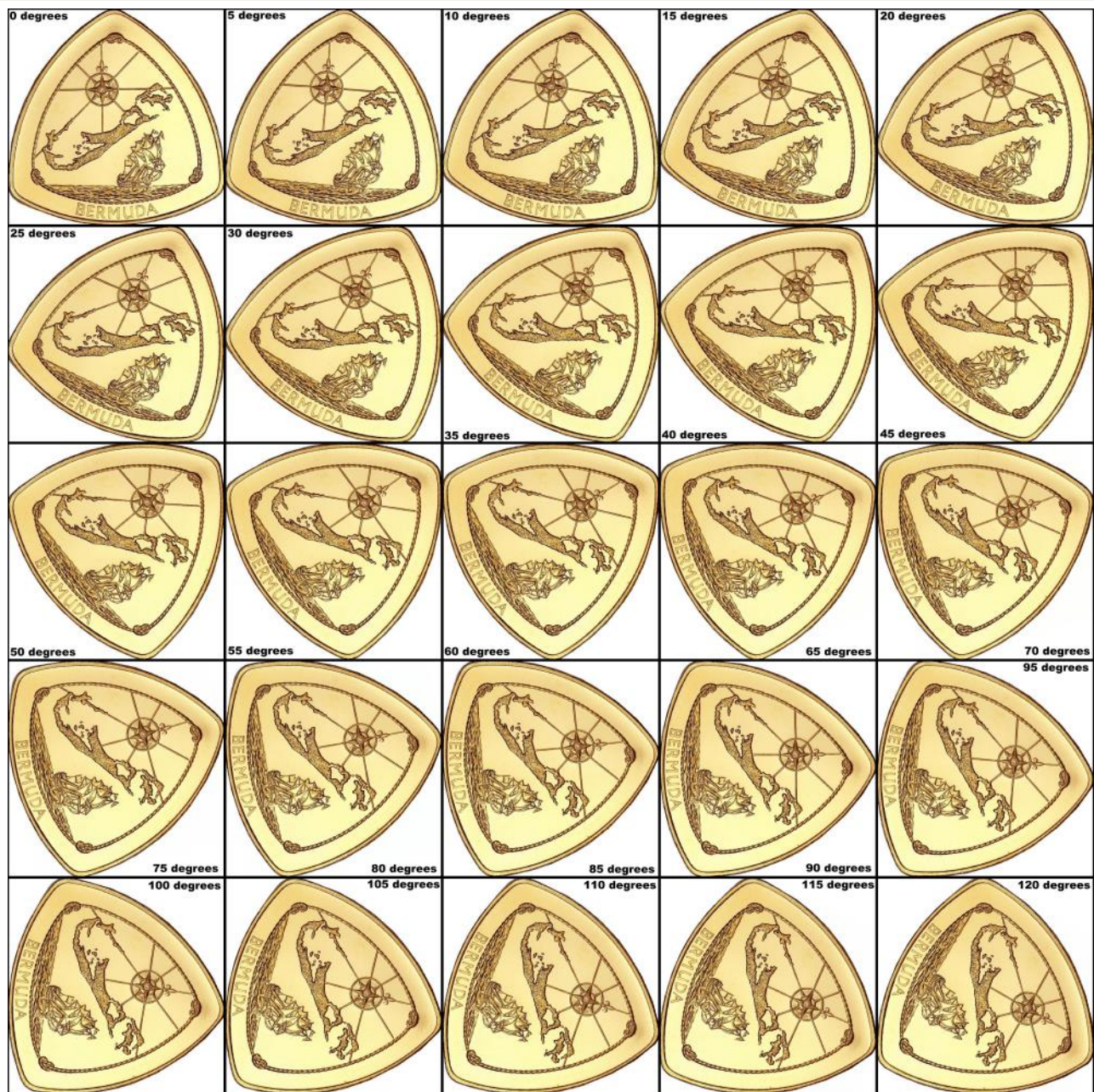
The designs on the majority of curved polygon coins are oriented with a vertex pointing upwards. The 2-Bolivianos coin from Bolivia and the 5-Dollar coin from Liberia use a coinage die rotation, which means that one side points up, while the other points down. This is assuming that both coin designs are upright.



The current standard 50-pence from the United Kingdom, as well as the 1-Tala coin from Samoa, feature both sides pointing downwards, again, assuming that the designs are upright. All commemorative 50-pence coins continue to be produced with the shape pointing up.



The images (on the next page) show how a Reuleaux triangle coin from Bermuda going through 120 degrees of rotation will never jam in a coin slot. Despite the fact that the angle of the coin is constantly changing, it is always touching all four sides of the square, but never protrudes beyond it.



I have made a short video showing a Reuleaux triangle coin from Bermuda rotating through 120 degrees inside a square

<https://youtu.be/O9bb8BBKdHc>

Messenger Gabriel

[Source Dec 7, 2020 PR: Ufficio Filatelico e Numismatico del Governatorato della Città del Vaticano]

The State of Vatican City—Philatelic & Numismatic Marketing Government issued (for release Dec. 10, 2020), this Messenger Gabriel 2020 gold coin as part of the *Vatican City Series: The Archangels*. Michael was issued in 2019. Sometime in 2021, the last coin in the 3-coin Series, the Raphael, will be released. According to Christian tradition, Gabriel is remembered above all for his role as a heavenly messenger and as such is therefore considered the patron saint of those who work in communications, postal carriers, ambassadors, newsagents, and couriers. Gabriel has often been characterized as the bringer of good news and the Angel of Revelation, as well as the mediator between God and man.

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All coins in the Series are produced by the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca Dello Stato (IPZS) at their facilities in Rome on behalf of the Treasury of the Holy See and are designed by artist Gabriele Di Mauro (who is pictured here sculpting his "The Way of the Cross").



To the right of the primary design is the denomination 200 EURO and under the design is the issuing state of CITTÀ del VATICANO. The mintmark R is placed just to the upper left denoting the city of Rome.

The reverse side includes a depiction of the crest of His Holiness Pope Francis, which is superimposed over the keys depicting elements of a Sun radiant and includes the initials HIS or, Christogram of the Holy Name of Jesus. Also included is an eight-pointed star and Spikenard of muskroot. The legend FRANCISCVS PP. A. VIII MMXX ("Francis, pope and pontiff 8th year of reign, 2020") is seen encircling the primary design with His Holiness's motto in Latin MISERANDO ATQUE ELIGENDO ("by having mercy, by choosing him") placed below the crest.

Specifications: Face Value 200 EURO, compositions .917 gold, weight 40 g, diameter 38.5mm, finish Proof, and maximum mintage of each coin in the Series is 499.

125th Anniversary of the Formation of the Hungarian Olympic Committee

[Source Nov. 29, 2020 PR: Magyar Nemzeti Bank]



The Magyar Nemzeti Bank prepares to launch on the 2nd of December, 2020, its new sterling silver and base metal coins commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Formation of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.

← The Committee was created in 1895, and the Kingdom of Hungary was represented by Ferenc Kemény (1860-1944), a noted Hungarian educator and humanist (pictured here). He was also a sports manager, educator, founding member of the Int'l Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Hungarian National Olympic Committee.

One year later, on December 19th, 1895, the Magyar Olimpiai Bizottság (MOB, Hungarian Olympic Committee) was the sixth of all the Olympic Committees to be set up after those of the French, Greek, American, German, and Austrian Olympic Committees.

Since the formation of the MOB and the first modern Olympic games in Athens in 1896, Hungary has participated and sent athletes to compete in almost all Summer Olympic Games and every Winter Olympic Games. Hungary did not compete in the 1920 Games, the first held after World War I and did not compete in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

As a prominent public body representing Hungary, the MOB mandates and represents the Hungarian Olympic movement exclusively. It is tasked with preserving traditions, teaching the idea of Olympism, and protecting the memories of Hungarian athletic heroes for young generations. Since their first competition, Hungarian athletes have won a total of 117 gold, 151 silver, and 174 bronze medals at both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

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Denomination 2000 Forint, Composition Cupro-Nickel, Weight 30.8 g, Diameter 38.6 mm, Finish Brilliant Uncirculated, and Maximum Mintage 5,000.



Denomination 10000 Forint, Composition .925 Sterling Silver, Weight 31.4 g, Diameter 38.6 mm, Finish Proof, and Maximum Mintage 5,000.



The sterling silver and base metal coins are produced by the Mint of Hungary at its facilities in Budapest on behalf of the National Bank of Hungary. The special silver collector coins with a gold-plated edge and base metal versions are designed by applied artist Andrea Horváth (pictured here) and pay homage to the outstanding results in the history of Hungarian sport life and the first Hungarian gold medals at Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

The design on the obverse side makes reference to the first gold medal won for Hungary at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games event, as the short track speed skating relay team wins the five-kilometre race in Gangneung. The design recalls this result of significance in sports history and features a representation of four speed skaters while racing, two placed in the foreground and two represented as shadows in the background. To the left of the representation of the athletes, in a legend, is the lettering PHJONGCSHANG 2018. The lettering MAGYARORSZÁG ("Hungary"), the year 2020, mintmark BP, and the denominations 10000 or 2000 FORINT are also part of the design.



The reverse side focuses on the founding of the Magyar Olimpiai Bizottság with the inclusion of the five Olympic rings and Hungary's first victory at the Olympic Games. The scene references the success achieved by Alfréd Hajós (pictured here) at the 1896 Summer Olympics as he wins the 100 and 1,200-metre swimming events in rippling seawater. The figure of the swimmer in the sea wearing a swimming suit from the 19th Century, while two men are sitting in a watch-boat in the background, is the focal point. This design is completed with the lettering ATHÉN 1896, which also lends to its context. Above the scene with the swimmer, on the left, in four lines, is the wording MAGYAR OLIMPIAI BIZOTTSÁG and the year 1895, when the MOB was founded. On the right of the letterings, the official logo of the Hungarian Olympic Committee is shown.

Hajós (1 February 1878 – 12 November 1955) was a Hungarian swimmer, football player and manager, and architect. He was the first modern Olympic swimming champion and the first Olympic champion of Hungary. No other swimmer ever won such a high fraction of all Olympic events at a single Games.

Suffolk Coin Hoard

[Source BBC August 2020 News]



After spending over a decade using a metal detector to search for treasure, Luke Mahoney found a hoard behind the village pub. Forty-year-old Mahoney discovered more than 1,000 silver coins in a field, which is land belonging to The Lindsey Rose Pub in Lindsey, Suffolk, England.

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The hoard has an estimated value of over £100,000 per Auctioneer Dix Noonan Webb—DNW. Mahoney, a father of three, who runs his own metal detector shop, had been out in the 15-acre (6.1 hectares) field on July 26th, 2020, when he made the discovery. He found a gold coin and a sixpence in the morning, before retiring to the Pub for Sunday lunch. On his return, he shortly thereafter discovered a Charles I coin, and then another and so on. Mahoney unearthed 1,061 silver coins dating back to the 15th-17th Centuries. Mahoney said most likely the coins were buried by a wealthy landowner who had gone off to fight in the Civil War. DNW-Experit Nigel Mills said the earliest coin in the find was an Elizabeth I era shilling dating back to 1573-78, while it also contained a number of Charles I half crowns from 1641-43.



Charles Buckle, 26, who runs the Pub, had to be encouraged to join Mahoney in the field to see what he discovered. Mahoney had to keep calling Buckle up until he agreed to come.

Coins Found in English Garden

[Source: Live Science, December 2020]



While weeding their garden (New Forest, County Hampshire, England), a family unearthed 63 gold coins and one silver coin. The gold coins date back to the 1400s, depicting English monarchs from Edward IV to Henry VIII. Four of the coins feature Henry VIII and, curiously, one of the initials of three of his wives: Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour.

The family notified the British Museum, which runs the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). This program partners with local people who find historical artifacts in the United Kingdom, so the findings can be documented and studied.

The coins were likely buried by a person of means, in about 1540, while King Henry VIII was still alive, but it's unknown if the coins were all buried at once, or buried sporadically over time. The British Museum (images of the hoard *shown here* are courtesy of The Trustees of the British Museum) estimates the hoard to be worth about £24 (much more than the average annual wage during Tudor times) at the time of burial, which would be about nearly £19,000 today.

Ashmolean Museum—University of Oxford coin expert, John Naylor, suggests a wealthy merchant or clergy member buried the hoard. This period is in the late 1530s and 1540s when there was the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and some churches tried to hide their wealth, hoping they would be able to keep it in the long-term. Naylor noted, "This is an important hoard. You don't get these big gold hoards very often from this period."

As for the coins themselves, it's a mystery why the initials of Henry's wives were present. In 1526, Henry and Thomas Wolsey, an English Archbishop, Statesman and Cardinal of the Catholic Church, redid the monetary system, changing coins' weights and beginning new denominations, such as the five-shilling gold coin. Not only did Henry VIII change denominations, but he made the odd decision to put his wife's initial on the coin.

Such a move had no precedent. Given Henry VIII's six marriages, the initials changed frequently. But after his third marriage, to Jane Seymour, the mother of Edward VI who died shortly after childbirth, Henry discontinued the practice, meaning that his following wives (Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr) did not see their initials on English money.



More Buried Treasure: Solomon's Historic Studio & Ranch & Bed'n'Breakfast



Pablo (a well-known sculptor and artist, dance teacher and dance performer) and his wife Beverly Solomon (former model, now creative director for sales and marketing) own a ranch in "Hill Country", Lampasas (just north of Austin), Texas. Their home is a designated historic heritage site, as the ranch was built in 1856 with roughly 50 acres of land. Because of the designation, any time the Solomons want to dig in their yard, for any reason (e.g. phone line, plant a tree, to unearth treasures) government authorities have to be contacted. While it's legal to sell "found treasure" from privately-owned State Historical Sites in Texas, Pablo and Beverly choose not to do so, instead they like to view the bounty as a token of the house they

bought in 1988. The items are important to the couple, so they exhibit them on the walls. The Solomons are both passionate conservationists and ecological crusaders.

Some of the treasures the couple have unearthed on their ranch include Civil War coins, Confederate Cavalry spur for boots, lots of old boots, and really old toys such as cast-iron toys well over a hundred years old. They have also found old tools, cast-iron goods hand-forged by a blacksmith dating back to the 18th century, old hand forks (a gardening tool), and even Native American artifacts that are 2000-7000 years old. Treasures have included some really nice Indian arrowheads plus a grindstone and grinding bowl. As well, they have found a little porcelain doll from Germany, and a Christmas ornament stamped 1880. There is also history of an 1800s gang of outlaws who buried their hoard in the area of the creek. As well a 1800s missing payroll shipment from Mexico is hidden somewhere in the area. There's also loot from a shipwreck that was brought into Texas and buried. Confederate Ranger John Singleton Mosby's stolen Civil War treasures are stashed somewhere in the area.

Pablo and Beverly's 1856 Moses Hughes Ranch home (a few miles west of Lampasas town centre) had residents ranging from early Lampasas settlers who tied a mule out front to warn them of Indian attacks to today's present owners. After using their property as predominantly a bed'n'breakfast for the first sixteen years, since 2004 the couple has used the house as their private residence and Pablo's art studio plus a historic studio for their unearthed treasures. Their house includes an 1820s table once owned by the Hughes family. Moses Hughes arrived in the Georgetown area of North Carolina in 1830s. He later married the daughter of Georgetown's founder. Moses then built a mill on Sulfur Creek, where Lampasas is now. The mill was to grind corn. The Town of Lampasas was built up around that mill. For the health of his ailing wife, Hughes built his house several miles out in the country at a location near a spring flowing with fresh water. In 1853 he brought his wife up to the ranch and she drank the water and bathed in the springs and eventually became so much better that she ended up having ten more children. The fame of the springs spread and eventually Lampasas became a very big resort town in the 1880s and 1890s. Early on the family had to defend itself against a number of minor Indian attacks. Beverly said because the house was finished in 1856, it has a number of benefits, "This house was laid out perfectly with the seasons, and because they had no electric heat or air-conditioning, the doors and windows are lined up so you can always get a cross breeze. The 18-inch thick walls hold in the cool morning air."

1861 Original Confederate Half Dollar

[Source: Heritage Auctions, www.ha.com]



This 1861 Original Confederate Half Dollar, PR30 NGC. CAC. Ex: Jefferson Davis/Donald G. Partrick Collection has a weight of 189 grains, and a composition 93% silver, 6% copper, 1% trace elements. Following usual mint procedure, dies for 1861 coinage were sent to New Orleans from the Philadelphia Mint late in 1860 and a considerable store of bullion was on hand to conduct business as usual when the new year started. As things turned out, the New Orleans Mint struck coins under the auspices of three different governments in 1861. From January 1 to January 26, the mint remained under federal control and a total of 330,000 Seated Liberty half dollars and 5,000 Liberty double eagles was coined. The State of Louisiana assumed control of the mint from January 26 through March 31, and a coinage of 1,240,000 half dollars and 9,750

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double eagles was accomplished. Finally, the Confederacy officially took over the facility on April 1, and struck 962,633 half dollars and 2,991 double eagles before closing the mint on April 30, 1861. In addition, a program of Confederate coinage was briefly contemplated in April, and four specimens of the proposed half dollar, with a standard Seated Liberty obverse and a unique reverse design were struck to demonstrate the concept. These are the famous Original Confederate half dollars known to numismatists today, with one shown here.

The \$2 Million Nickel



George Walton loved nothing more than collecting rare coins, and when the North Carolina dealer was killed in a car accident in 1962, his extended family inherited a princely sum. Among the pieces was one of five Liberty Head nickels with the date 1913. As the story goes, the main US coin between 1883-1912 was the Liberty Head, which was replaced in 1913 by the Indian / Buffalo coin. There wasn't supposed to be any 1913 Liberty Head nickels made, although for a period of time, the US Mint held onto the dies. Around 1918, a US Mint employee used the dies to create five 1913 Liberty Head coins, although the US Mint contends they were never struck, collectors believed they existed and sought to add one to their collections.

When George Walton lucked into the nickel in 1945, he cherished it with all his heart, taking great care to remind his family that he was sitting on a fortune. In 1962, following Walton's death, a host of auctioneers appraising the nickel downplayed its value, so George's widow held it in her closet for over the next thirty years. When she died in 1992, the family tested the market again, and discovered the nickel could possibly be worth millions, despite what the auctioneers claimed in the 1960s. At first they were only offered \$5,000, which was declined.

A fourth Liberty Head nickel sold in 1993, leading the family to believe their nickel was the real thing, yet it was held onto for another decade. It was then during an American Numismatic Association's Annual Convention where the Editor of *Coin World* took an interest in the four Liberty Head nickels on display. With all parties in agreement, the George Walton's nickel, the fifth Liberty Head nickel, was included in the exhibit. A million dollars was put up for the coin if it proved to be authentic. Hours later the reputable firm Bowers & Merena with the help of Donn Pearlman, confirmed the Walton coin was the authentic piece. Six professional appraisers, examined the Walton coin and all were in agreement. The nickel remains in the family's control, but travels to exhibits around the country (USA), including the Money Museum in Colorado.

When and if the family chooses to part with the coin, it will fetch a healthy amount! Thank goodness they never sold it for the \$5,000 offered, and that they trusted George Walton's warnings about its value.

Blasts from the Past!



Twenty-Five Is Coming Next Year!

Do you have SWCS stuff from the last quarter century to share? Why not send a photo or scan to your Editor?



South Wellington Coin Society

**Invites you To...
Attend Our First Meeting**

To Be Held At The Eramosa
Community Library - Rockwood
On March 20, 1997 - 7:30 p.m.

Our Topic Of The Evening Will Be About
"Road Building Scrip Of Wellington County."
Also Learn About Canadian Coins,
Paper Money And Tokens.

Anyone Interested In A Dealer Table Please Contact Mike Or Tony.

For More Information Contact
Mike Hollingshead
1-519-823-COIN or
Tony Zmija
1-519-856-2285



South Wellington Coin Society

Volume 1 Issue 1 March 20, 1997

Welcome
Welcome to the inaugural meeting of the South Wellington Coin Society! Here is some background on the early history of the Society.

Origin
The beginning of the South Wellington Coin Society can be traced back to an enterprising group of individuals. This group saw the gap that was left when the Guelph club disbanded and were further encouraged by a wealth of interest coming from fellow numismatists residing in the area.

Executive
The South Wellington Coin Society has entered its rookie season under the guidance of a committee with a formal election of officers at a later date (tentatively scheduled for June?). Bob Zmija has offered his assistance with the duties of a treasurer.

Membership
Here is your opportunity to get in on the ground floor! Memberships can be obtained for \$10 an individual and a family membership is a steal at \$15. Act now!

Meeting Location & Agenda
For our meetings we have graciously been offered space by the Eramosa Library. Thanks go out to Tony Zmija for his efforts in finding us a home.


Monthly Bulletins
Expect an entertaining and educational experience at our meetings. Plans are already in action to bring in guest speakers. Tonight's main event will be a Mike Hollingshead presentation on Wellington County Scrip. Other Attractions are to include dealer tables

and, at a later date, the always popular auctions.

South Wellington Coin Society Insignia
We hope to follow in the footsteps of other great coin societies by offering a "cameo" newsletter. Our Bulletins will be a product of the collaboration of a number of individuals. We have secured the expertise of a graphic artist as part of the team. Early issues will be distributed at meetings until we have established a mailing list.

Design work on an insignia to represent us is underway. Bob Zmija has been active in researching the heritage of the area, making use of the Wellington County Museum. We hope his findings will help to install some heritage in to our logo. As you may already have noted, a logo has been used at the top of this news letter. As this is only a proposed logo any input from our new members would be appreciated and encouraged. Thank you.

Next Meeting
Date: April 18, 1997
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Guest Speaker & Topic To Be Announced



over...

South Wellington Coin Society

Volume 1 Issue 2 May 7, 1997

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH WELLINGTON COIN SOCIETY

Mike Hollingshead did the ground breaking in welcoming the group to the first meeting of the South Wellington Coin Society. The society serves the North Halton and Guelph Areas and meets at the Eramosa Community Library, Rockwood. A thank you went out to Tony Zmija for finding us this home. This initial meeting offered dealer tables, a respected guest speaker and a refreshment table. The promise of auctions at the upcoming meetings is also to be looked forward to.

SWCS NEWSLETTERS

You will not want to miss an edition of our newsletter! These gems will be available at the meetings, you might also find one in your mailbox, if we have your mailing address. Be sure to get your address to Bob Zmija so that we can get you on the mailing list.

THE PURSUIT OF A LOGO

The pursuit of an insignia to represent the SWCS continues. While a finalized design remains at large some early proposals were unveiled. Bob Zmija has been hot on the trail of the elusive logo. His investigations have led him to the Wellington County Museum and doing some

design of his own. Early clues all point to the inclusion of the Duke of Wellington somewhere in the logo, but the case remains open and they ask that anyone come forward.


MEMBERSHIPS

For those of you who have joined our ranks, your receipt is your membership card for the time being. For those who have not joined, what are you waiting for? Membership can still be had for \$10.00 or sign up the whole family for a TOONEY more.

REVIEW OF MARCH'S GUEST SPEAKER:

For our first guest speaker the SWCS was proud to present the Guelph Historical Society's, Ross Irwin. Ross gave us an account of early transportation issues in the area. We would like to thank Ross for this informative discussion. We would also like to thank Mike for arranging our first presentation.

Mathew Fleet



South Wellington Coin Society

Volume 1 Issue 2 June 4, 1997

Charter Memberships
Charter memberships are still available but time is running short. Your opportunity to partake in the prestige of charter membership will soon be lost. These memberships are still a steal at only \$10 or sign the whole family up for a mere \$12.

SWCS Logo Update
Bob Zmija took the floor to update the members on the progress of the logo development. Bob has been working with different ideas that have been submitted and has come up with a finalized design which as approved in a vote by the members. We can look forward to seeing the logo on membership cards and maybe even on a coin. While different ideas had been submitted for the logo, Bob has been using his knowledge of dies to filter out ideas that would prove too costly to reproduce on a coin. While our logo would grace one side of the coin the reverse may feature a train from the Railway Museum. Members are asked to see Bob if they would be interested in purchasing these coins so that he can go ahead with having dies produced.

Auction
The SWCS hosted its first auction at the May meeting. Tony Zmija did a fine job in his first stab at auctioning while Scott Douglas auctioned the last half of the lots. While it was the first auction there

were no opening jitters. Though there were some bargains as several, lots sold for reserve value there was also some spirited bidding. Several members engaged in a bidding war for a '92 PL set and when the dust settled the coin set had realized more than the estimated value.

A thank you goes out to Scott Douglas for contributing his expertise in coordinating our auctions. Members interested in submitting lots to the auction should bring them to Scott who will grade and assign their estimated value. The commission is only \$.25 for lots selling at less than \$20 and \$1 for lots selling over \$20. So why not clear out some of those doubles.

The SWCS promises another interesting auction as a broad range of coins grace this month's auction list. There is something for everyone as the lots include Canadian decimal, tokens and world coins. Watch for the high grade large cents and '46 dollar.

For Your Daybook

June 4, 1997 - 8:00
South Wellington Coin Society meeting

June 8, 1997 - 9-5:00
Brantford Numismatic Society Coin Show
(Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St.)

Nov. 1, 1997 - 9-5:00
The CNA Numismatic Course